

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

In response to the formality objections, all of the various misspellings have now been corrected. Accordingly, all outstanding formal issues are now believed to have been resolved in the applicant's favor.

The rejection of claims 1, 3, 6-9, 11-18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly made "obvious" by Schneider '035 is respectfully traversed.

While this new ground of rejection is at least based on a reference that appears to use an MT pulse, Schneider '035 fails to teach or suggest the applicant's novel use of an MT pulse.

For example, Schneider fails to teach or suggest use of a slice positioning gradient pulse in parallel with application of an off-resonance saturation pulse 30 (which appears to constitute a form of magnetization transfer pulse, e.g., see column 8, lines 47-58).

This novel feature of applicant's invention was already addressed in dependent claims 8, 13 and 18. Concurrent application of the MT pulse and gradient pulse so as to offset the applied position of the MT pulse offers non-obvious advantages. For example, see applicant's Figures 10 and 11 and the related text (e.g., pages 22-24), where magnetic resonance angiography for imaging peripheral blood vessels can be performed with more

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precision by combining the MT effect and the technique of positionally changing the pre-excited region from the imaged region.

Independent claims 1, 14 and 20 have now been amended to require such concurrent application of the MT pulse and gradient pulse. As can be seen, for example, in Figure 4 of Schneider, this is an entirely different use of the MT pulse than anything taught or suggested by Schneider.

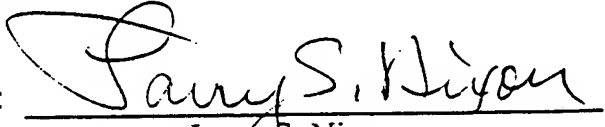
Accordingly, for at least this reason, applicant's claims as now amended cannot possibly be made "obvious" by any teaching or suggestion of the cited prior art.

Attention is also directed to new dependent claim 21.

Accordingly, this entire application is now believed to be in allowable condition and a formal Notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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